calamity relief such as drought, flood, etc. at rates applicable to families below poverty line (BPL) i.e. Rs. 5650 per tonne for rice and Rs. 4150 per tonne for wheat for distribution to the affected families.

As compared to this, the export price of rice fixed by the Government of India is Rs. 5650/-per tonne for raw rice and Rs. 6000/- per tonne for parboiled rice. The current export price of wheat is Rs. 4200 per tonne and that of 'lustre lost' wheat of Punjab and Haryana is Rs. 4150 per tonne.

Rejection of wheat by Indonesia

1252. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the efforts of Government to export wheat to Indonesia received a set back since the Indonesia Government has rejected Indian wheat due to quality reasons;

(b) if so, the facts and the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have been exporting poor quality of wheat resulting losses in heavy transit charges etc.; and

(d) if so, the details of such losses suffered during the last few years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Discrepencies in prices of PDS items

†1253. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of the items sold through the fair price shops are more than the prices prevailing in the open market;

(b) if so, whether Government are going to reconsider the prices of these items; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No Sir. The prices of foodgrains for BPL families and sugar and kerosene oil for eligible persons/families under PDS are lower than the open market prices.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

International actions to resolve terrorism

1254. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the war on Afghanistan and indiscriminate killing of many civilians is establishing a dreaded terrorist group as fighters for national liberty and humanity in a way;

(b) if so, whether India, the worst sufferer of terrorism, should contemplate some international actions to resolve the peculiar crisis; and

(c) if so, how and by when such actions would be initiated?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The developments in Afghanistan impact directly on our national interests, including our security interests. These were adversely effected during the regime of the Taliban militia, when Afghan territories under their control had become the epicenter of terrorism, narcotics and obscurantist ideologies. The present war in Afghanistan is fight against terrorist and obscurantist forces of the Taliban. The fight against international terrorism is global and we support all efforts aimed at eradicating this menace from this world.

(b) and (c) The Government has already taken concrete actions to address the evolving situation in Afghanistan and has been in touch with several countries that take an interest in Afghanistan, as well with the United Nations. Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee has written to heads of State/ Government of a number of countries stating that the future Government in Afghanistan should be broad based and multiethnic with equitable representation from all ethnic and religious groups. India attended the recently held meeting of the Group of 21 countries on Afghanistan, convened by the United Nations in New York on 16th November, 2001, to discuss the emerging political and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan. India also actively worked along with other countries in framing various UN resolutions on the question